<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) An electronic document answering machine comprising:

an interconnected CPU, memory and modem with a telephone connection;

a system for ~~communicating stored~~<u>rendering</u> documents ~~to a user~~;

an alert <u>device</u> for signaling ~~a user~~ that <u>at least one</u> new document<u>s</u> ~~are~~<u>is</u> waiting to be reviewed;

an input <u>device</u> ~~for a user~~ to signal <u>rendering of at least one of the at least one new document</u> ~~the system to communicate the new documents to the user~~; and

a digital <u>port</u> ~~communication link~~ for connecting to a host personal computer (PC), wherein the electronic document answering machine periodically connects to <u>at least one</u> remote source~~s~~, receives and stores <u>at least one</u> digital document~~s~~ <u>in the memory</u>, and activates the alert ~~apparatus~~<u>device</u> as <u>a</u> new document~~s~~ <u>is</u>~~are~~ stored, and wherein, in response to ~~the~~ input <u>device receiving an input</u>, the electronic document answering machine <u>renders</u> ~~communicates~~ stored document~~s one-at-a-time to the user~~, and wherein the electronic document answering machine is adapted to <u>transmit</u> ~~communicate~~ stored documents to the PC for processing.

18.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17 wherein the system for <u>rendering</u> ~~communicating~~ stored documents comprises a speaker and voice synthesis apparatus.

19.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17 wherein the system for <u>rendering</u> ~~communicating~~ stored documents comprises a display apparatus.

20.   (Previously presented) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17 adapted for use by the PC as a modem.

21.   (Previously presented) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17 wherein the modem is operated by the CPU and has no separate CPU.

22.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine as in claim 17 wherein the ~~at least one~~ remote source ~~sources include~~ includes an Internet mail server, and ~~downloaded documents include~~ and the at least one new document includes at least one e-mail message addressed to a particular user.

23.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17 wherein the alert device ~~apparatus is an~~ includes at least one light emitting diode (LED) and the input is a pushbutton having the at least one LED integrated in the pushbutton.

24.   (Previously presented) The electronic document answering machine of claim 23 further comprising a second pushbutton adapted for applying and removing power to power-using elements.

25.   (Currently Amended) An electronic document answering system in a personal computer (PC), comprising:
        a retriever for periodically accessing remote sources and retrieving and storing digital documents;
        ~~an~~ a light emitting dioide (LED) alert apparatus for signaling ~~a user~~ that one or more new documents have been retrieved and stored and are ready for review; and
        an initializing input pushbutton having the LED alert apparatus integrated in the pushbutton~~, for a user~~ to signal the system to ~~communicate~~ initiate review of the stored documents ~~one-at-a-time for review by the user~~;
        wherein the system is adapted to operate using CPU and memory elements of the PC with special operating code provided for the system, and to operate during periods of time the PC is in reduced-power power as well as when the PC is in full operating mode.

26.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 wherein the digital documents include e-mail ~~addressed to the PC user~~.

27.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 wherein the <u>LED</u> alert apparatus and the pushbutton are in a keyboard in communication with the PC.

28.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the <u>LED</u> alert apparatus is an LED in a standard keyboard adapted to serve as the alert apparatus, and the input apparatus is a standard key on the keyboard adapted to serve as the pushbutton.

29.   (Cancelled)

30.   (New) A computing device, comprising:
        a memory for storing electronic documents having a delivery address;
        at least one processor configured to access the electronic documents in the memory and periodically interface to at least one network store of electronic documents to receive a new set of electronic documents having the delivery address and to store the new set of electronic documents in the memory;
        an alert device that renders at least one of audio or video indicating receipt of the new set of electronic documents; and
        an input device to request rendering of the electronic documents of the new set of electronic documents, and wherein the electronic documents stored in the memory are transferable to another computing device for processing.

31.   (New) A method, comprising:

        periodically receiving new electronic documents having an associated delivery address from at least one remote network store;

        storing the new electronic documents in a memory for electronic documents having the delivery address;

        automatically rendering at least one of an audio notification or visual indication that new electronic documents are received;

        receiving a request to render the new electronic documents; and

        upon request, transferring an electronic document stored in the memory to another computing device for further processing.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the transferring includes transferring to another computing device for display by said another computing device.

33.   (New) A computing device, comprising:

        a retriever that periodically accesses remote sources and retrieves and stores in memory at least one new digital document addressed to an addressee that is not already stored in memory of the computing device; and

        an input device having at least one light emitting diode (LED) integrated in the input device, wherein the at least one LED signals that the at least one new digital document is stored in memory and ready for review, and wherein activation of the input device initiates rendering of the at least one new digital document.

34.   (New) The computing device of claim 33, wherein the retriever is adapted to operate using at least one processor of the device and memory elements of the computing device with special operating code provided for the computing device.

35.   (New) The computing device of claim 34, wherein the retriever and the input device are adapted to operate during periods of time in which the computing device is in a reduced-power state.

36.   (New) A method, comprising:

periodically accessing at least one remote source of electronically addressable digital documents addressed to an addressee;

based on the accessing, receiving and storing in memory at least one new digital document addressed to the addressee;

signaling by at least one light emitting diode (LED) that the at least one new digital document is stored in memory; and

upon activation of an input in which the at least one LED is integrated, rendering the at least one new digital document.

37.   (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the rendering includes rendering the at least one new digital document one-at-a-time.